



Vernon Bates  
<ouachita@comcast.net>

To: "Mr. Horst Greiczmiel" <horst\_greczmiel@ceq.eop.gov>  
cc: ceq\_nepa@fs.fed.us  
Subject: CEQ NEPA Task Force - Comments Concerning A "Performance" Issue

09/15/02 04:01 PM  
Please respond to  
Vernon Bates

Dear Mr. Greiczmiel and the NEPA Task Force,

In my short history of working with government employees I am frequently confronted with situations where the public doesn't get very much performance for their money. The NEPA Task Force web site illustrates the "performance" problem very well.

On the following web page [<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf/comments/comments.html>] there is a link entitled, "Federal Agencies." There are no comments from federal agencies. This is very surprising because the agencies are the implementors of NEPA. It would have been much better if the federal agencies could have each formulated their own experiences with NEPA so the public could understand problems from their point of view -- prior to taking comments from others. Then everyone could benefit from the knowledge gained from their situations. I describe this as a "performance" problem because they have not "performed" their duty by being openly communicative in a timely manner for this effort. I hope you gather what I mean by this. It is too easy for political-based machinery to simply take a one-sided, defensive posture.

It would be my recommendation to keep the horse in front of the cart, i.e., make the Federal Agencies file their comments first so they can be reviewed by everyone else.

Thanks for your attention to this suggestion.

Vernon Bates, Professional Biologist & Chairman  
Ouachita Watch League  
820 Beech Bend Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37221  
[ouachita@comcast.net](mailto:ouachita@comcast.net)  
615-646-6543

The Ouachita Watch League is interested in fairness in the consideration of the management of the Ouachita NF of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Our attention is focused on good laws that support good planning and information systems at the local level. We want to protect the physical and biological elements of the Ouachita NF for future research and enjoyment.